

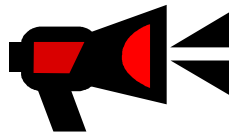
NETWORK

A Publication of Tempe Community Council
Connecting those in need with those who care

SUMMER 2008

Inside This Issue

8.7 MILLION KIDS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE	2-4
Message from the Executive Director	5
TCC Board Retreat	5
EITC news and pictures	6
Good News - CIS Announcement & Mayor's Disability Awards	7
How you can give	8



Announcing



TCC's NEW LOGO

TCC's 35th anniversary last year gave stimulus for a new logo that better envisions our mission statement, "connecting those in need with those who care". Thanks to **DW Green** company, we believe our new logo accomplishes that aim. The Tempe Bridge shows our Tempe base and shows *connection* with those in need. The star symbolizes *leadership* and *hope*. The ripples in the water might illustrate *reflection* and *positive influence*. The cobalt blue color implies *care* and *kindness*.

Thanks again to all of you who helped us achieve so much over the past 35 years. We look forward to seeing what we will accomplish in the next 35 years!

NOTICE

**The TCC
Network
newsletter**

**is going *electronic!*
Please subscribe
online at**

**www.tempe.gov/tcc
or call or email with
your email informa-
tion to Cindy Kominska,
(480) 858-2306,
cindy_kominska@tempe.gov**

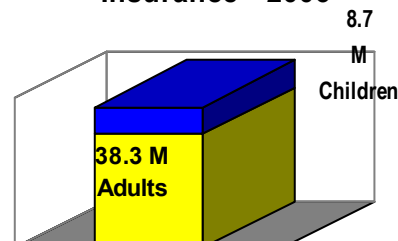


8.7 MILLION KIDS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE



Despite having the highest spending on health care per capita, the U.S. regularly rates at or near the bottom in infant mortality, life expectancy, and health insurance coverage compared to other developed, high income countries. According to the U.S. Census, **47 million** Americans were uninsured in 2006; approximately **8.7 million** of them are children (see chart to the right).

47 Million Americans Without Health Insurance - 2006



The U.S. Census Bureau report, Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2006, says the numbers of uninsured have increased.

“Both the percentage and the number of people without health insurance increased in 2006. The percentage without health insurance increased from **15.3 percent** in 2005 to **15.8 percent** in 2006 and the number of uninsured increased from **44.8 million** to **47.0 million**. ... The percentage and the number of children under 18 years old without health insurance increased to **11.7 percent**.”

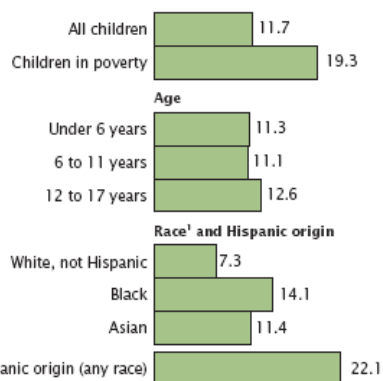
There are some **283,000** uninsured children in Arizona, according to the AZ Ecumenical Council.

The Census report further states, “With an uninsured rate in 2006 at **19.3 percent**, *children in poverty* were more likely to be uninsured than all children.” The chart to the right shows uninsured children by poverty status and also age and race. Perhaps not surprisingly, minority children are highly represented among uninsured children: Black at 14.3%, Hispanic at 22.3% and Asian at 11.4%.

Predictably, Arizona ranks poorly among the states on its proportion of uninsured. The Census report says Arizona is **48th** among the states and District of Columbia with a percentage of uninsured at **19% (1.2 million people)**. The highest percent is in Texas at 24.1% and the lowest is in Minnesota at 8.5%.

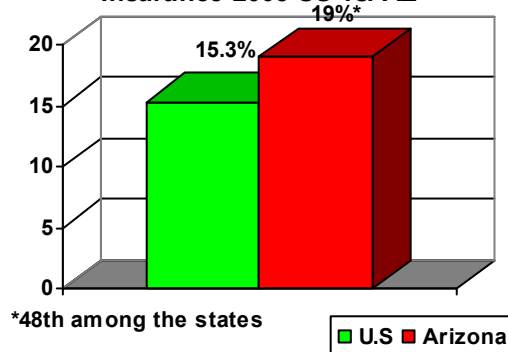
The Census study does not provide figures for local communities. However, if the 15.8% state uninsured proportion applied to *Tempe*, that would equal over **26,000** individuals in Tempe of which over **4,900** would be children.

Figure 8.
Uninsured Children by Poverty Status, Age, and Race and Hispanic Origin: 2006
(Percent)



¹ Federal surveys now give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group such as Asian may be defined as those who reported Asian and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). This table shows data using the first approach (race alone).
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2007 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Percent Without Health Insurance 2005 US vs. AZ



According to the Institute of Medicine's *Insuring America* (2004), there are serious consequences for not having health insurance, not the least of which are the 18,000-22,000 Americans who die each year because they don't have health coverage. The Institute of Medicine's key findings include:

- "Compared to people with insurance, uninsured children and adults experience worse health outcomes and die sooner.
- Families can suffer emotionally and financially when even a single member is uninsured.
- Uninsured consumers reduce hospital service and capacity which can decrease access to certain types of care for all residents, even those who have coverage. It is estimated that the lost economic value of uninsurance in the US is between \$65 billion and \$130 billion annually."

The lack of insurance has a ripple effect through other economic sectors. A study of bankruptcy petitions (Health Affairs, 2005) indicated that illness or injury suffered by the debtor or family member were a factor in 50% of all non-business filing that year. Other costs associated with uninsurance include lost income due to reduced time at work and higher public program costs, including the criminal justice system.

The Human Side - What being uninsured means in real-life terms is provided by the Robert Wood Johnson project, "Covering the Uninsured".

"Catherine Edwards, 54, Carthage, Illinois, is a divorced mother of two children, Renee, 21, and Douglas, 15. Until April of last year she worked as a machine operator for an automobile parts manufacturer. In April, she was laid off from this position. While she had the option of continuing to receive health coverage under COBRA, she was unable to afford the monthly payments since her only source of income was her unemployment check. Although this past October she was officially terminated by the company, she has recently returned to their assembly line as a temporary employee. In this position, she is ineligible for benefits. Cathy's two children are fortunate to have coverage under their father's policy.



Cathy suffers from a rare disease called Myasthenia Gravis Pseudoparalytica, which severely weakens her muscles and causes extreme fatigue. In some cases, this disease can be life threatening. In all cases, it prevents people from living a normal life. It makes working long hours very difficult. While she is able to receive some care at a local health care clinic, she is not receiving the level of treatment required for the medical management of this disease.

Catherine is not the only member of her family who has been affected by the devastating effects of being uninsured. Her brother, Gale Jones, 59, died last month after suffering from Crohn's disease and colon cancer. He was uninsured and was unable to receive the treatments he needed to survive."

8.7 MILLION KIDS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE - Continued

Some Improvement for Kids - “The State of Kids’ Coverage” by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) states that in Arizona, the percentage of kids enrolled in *KidsCare* or *Medicaid* increased by 71% during this time, meaning at least 218,000 more kids now have public coverage in Arizona. These programs have helped reduce the number of uninsured kids by 125,000 since 1997, demonstrating the importance of public health coverage programs as a safety net for families.

In Arizona, the percentage of kids enrolled in Kids Care or Medicaid increased by 71%, meaning at least 218,000 more kids now have public coverage in Arizona.

“Medicaid and KidsCare have provided a much-needed safety net for Arizona’s children,” said Carol Kamin, former president and CEO of Children's Action Alliance, a member of the Covering Arizona Kids coalition. “Because of these programs, working parents don’t have to choose between filling the refrigerator and filling a prescription.”

Former Arizona Diamondback Miguel Batista supports the program. “While Kids Care has gone a long way in reducing the number of uninsured kids in Arizona, a lot of families still don’t know that Kids Care is available to them. This low-cost health insurance program helps a family of four earning up to \$40,000 a year. It allows kids to visit the doctor for well checks, see the dentist when needed, and visit the hospital when necessary without families going deep into debt,” he said.

Tempe response—*Tempe Community Action Agency (TCAA)* began enrolling low-income children in the Kids Care Health Insurance Program in February 2008. The contract established a full-time agency outreach position within TCAA. The agency outreach worker will collaborate with schools and child care organizations in Tempe. The objective will be to identify eligible children and adolescents for program enrollment and assist parents with the application process. Enrollment services will also be provided, by appointment, at the Escalante Community Center located at 2150 East Orange Street, Tempe.



Communities In Schools of Tempe and Kyrene has received a grant from America’s Promise to support the effort to register more eligible children in the Tempe area. This grant will provide any family who keeps their eligibility appointment with a free book, “What To Do When Your Child Gets Sick” and a free health kit. **Natalie Swanson**, the new outreach staff person, is available to register families at schools, communities of faith, or other places that have an interest in children’s health. She can be reached at (480) 350-5891.

BOTTOM LINE

We all understand that health care is one of the most expensive benefits that can be provided. However, providing too little of it (or none at all) leads to more serious and more expensive problems later on - especially for children. Help is available for uninsured kids *if* they and their parents are aware of it.

We hope that everyone in Tempe who are aware of kids without health insurance will help with this new outreach effort.

To learn more about Kids Care AZ visit www.kidscare.state.az.us.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Each year, I newly understand the meaning of “having mixed feelings” when we both say goodbye to retiring board members and welcome new members and officers.



So, it was déjà vu at the May 10 TCC Board Retreat when those board members coming and going were recognized.

Retiring Board Members: **Steve Bauer, Leslie Evans, Jan Lewis, Ross Reck.** (We much appreciated Leslie Evans hosting the board at her lovely home as part of the retreat.)

New Board Members: **Suzanne Fallender, Robert Hackett, Jr., Pam Kane, Robert Kizere, Nick Miner.**

Officers of the Board 2008-09: **Margaret Hunnicutt, President; Arlene Chin, Vice-President; Kathy Stevens, Secretary; Charlie Vester, Treasurer; Brian Martin and Mike Rooney, Members at Large; Lance Cypert, Past-President.**

Perhaps the best part of it for me is the opportunity to say a heart-felt thanks to those wonderful people who gave so much of themselves in service on our board and in taking extra time to serve as officers. Also, getting to know and work with our new board members is a special treat.

Katherine Hanley

2008 TCC Board Retreat



Earned Income Tax Credit Initiative

Congressman Harry Mitchell Visits Tempe EITC

On Saturday, March 29, Congressman **Harry Mitchell** visited the TCC EITC super site at Tempe Schools Credit Union (TSCU) and held his neighborhood office hours on site. Pictured below are Rep. Mitchell and the EITC volunteers on that day.



Pictured are left to right, seated: Karen Maish, Diane Bennett, Andrea Walker and Woo-Jin Lee. Standing, row 2: Ladeena Halverson, Meg Monaghan, Congressman Harry Mitchell, Margaret Hunnicutt, Janet Trudgen, Michael Wilson, Nozomi Ukon, Nancy Bowman and Veronica Heron. Row #3: Jeff Lindquist, Matt Van Wallene, Len Copple, Kelly McGowan, Fred Phail, Kara Pinegar, Steven Weingarten, Bob Hunnicutt and Steve Wise

TEMPE EITC RESULTS FOR 2007

Total Federal Refunds of \$1,105,921

TSCU = \$932,540

Guadalupe = \$162,053

Total EITC of \$400,490

TSCU = \$344,755

Guadalupe = \$55,735

Number of Returns

TSCU – 903- up from 688 last year!

Guadalupe - 161 -up from 118 last year!

50 Volunteers

26 returning from last year.



EITC volunteers were recognized at a reception on April 17. Pictured above are (l. to r.) **Diane Bennett**, **Margaret Hunnicutt** and **Bob Hunnicutt**.



GOOD NEWS

CIS Celebrates New Name and Logo

“**Communities In Schools of Tempe and Kyrene**” is the new name of our CIS program, as announced at the annual CIS Breakfast on April 25. National Communities in School founder **Bill Milliken** spoke at the breakfast. Shown in the photo on the right are (left to right, Hon. **Louraine Arkfeld**, Tempe Presiding City Judge, **Alan Longfellow**, former TCC Board Member, **Bill Milliken**, **Kate Hanley**, TCC Executive Director and **Mark Mitchell**, City of



The **new logo** is shown to the right, in keeping with the new brand of the national Communities in Schools.



Tempe Councilmember.

2008 Mayor's Disability Awards

The 2008 Mayor's Disability Awards were presented on April 30 at the Tempe Center for the Arts. **Luis Ross** spoke about his experiences living with athetoid cerebral palsy and encouraged us never to give up on their dreams or themselves (see photo to the right of Mr. Ross being thanked by **Mayor Hugh Hallman**.)

Mayor Hallman presented these awards:

OUTSTANDING STUDENT EMPLOYEES:

Desmond King and **Travis Faust** - Desert Vista;

Aurelio Ayala and **Ramsey Jones** - Corona Del Sol;

Francisco Matus and **Brandi Coker** -Mountain

Pointe; **Daniel Pedro** and **Rykeen Green** - Marcos de Niza; **Steve Murawski** - McClintock.

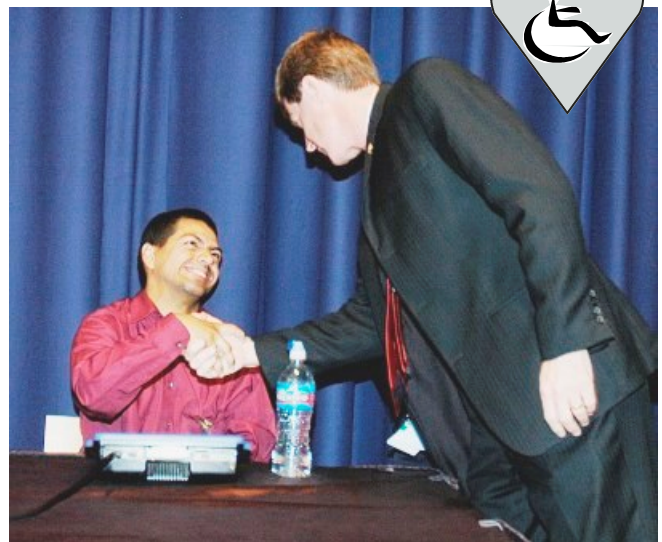
Student awardees were also each presented with a cash award from **Tempe Diablos**.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT, WORKBRIDGE ALUM - **Eric Karcz**, Mountain Pointe High School Graduate, 2007.

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYER OF STUDENTS - **PetSmart, West Tempe Store #0161**

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR - **Valerie Gonzales**, City of Tempe Parks & Recreation Department

PRIDE OF THE CITY AWARD - **Michael Franjevic**, posthumously



HOW YOU CAN GIVE



TCC welcomes your financial help. Here are your opportunities.

Simply make a check out to "Tempe Community Council", note on the memo line how you would like your gift directed and send it to TCC at the address below on this page:

Tempe Community Council - connecting those in need with those who care.

Tempe Community Foundation - a permanent endowment to benefit human services in Tempe under the administration of the AZ Community Foundation.

Tempe's Help to Others (H2O) - funding help for those most in need through local nonprofits.

Communities in Schools - helping children be successful in our schools.

Open Horizons - child care scholarships for parenting teens.

Cinderella Affair - making proms affordable to all.



You can also give directly on the web....

<http://www.tempe.gov/tcc>, click on "How to Donate" at the top of the page, OR go directly to these individual websites

Tempe Community Foundation - www.tempecommunityfoundation.org

Tempe's Help to Others (H2O) - www.tempe.gov/tcc

Communities in Schools - www.tempe.gov/tcc/CIS

Open Horizons - www.tempe.gov/tcc/OpenHorizons

Cinderella Affair - www.cinderellaaffair.org

NOTE: Funds contributed to Tempe Community Council may be used and/or distributed when and as Tempe Community Council deems appropriate, in its sole discretion, in furtherance of growing human service funds for Tempe.

Don Carlos Humanitarian Award Nominations are now open! DUE 7/31/08
Nomination form is online at <http://www.tempe.gov/tcc>



NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
PERMIT NO. 1514

34 E. 7th Street, Bldg. A
Tempe, AZ 85281

Phone: (480) 858-2300
Fax: (480) 858-2319

Editor: Steve Wise

